

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date
12 September 2003 (12.09.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 03/074061 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: A61K 33/14, 33/06, 33/00, 31/7004, 31/194, A61P 1/10

(21) International Application Number: PCT/AU03/00257

(22) International Filing Date: 4 March 2003 (04.03.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data: PS 0887 4 March 2002 (04.03.2002) AU

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(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

A1

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(54) Title: ELECTROLYTE PURGATIVE

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to compositions for use in purgatives, to purgatives comprising such compositions, and to methods for inducing purgation of the colon. The composition may comprise at least one water-soluble sodium salt; at least one water-soluble minimally degradable sugar in an amount, by weight, of from about 1 to about 3 times the weight of sodium ions in said composition; at least one water-soluble potassium salt in an amount, by weight, of from about 0.05 to about 1 time the weight of said sodium salt in said composition; and at least one water-soluble magnesium salt, wherein the weight of magnesium ions in said composition is from 0.1 to about 10 times the weight of sodium ions in said composition.